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A PUBLICATION OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

FROM the LAND



ANNUAL MEETING
INVITATION INSIDE

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The Challenges of Stewardship

Early every spring, when a frigid wind is still whipping off Long Island Sound, a group of Nature Conservancy volunteers and staff erect a snow fence on Griswold Point in Old Lyme. The fence protects the nesting areas of piping plovers, a threatened bird species, from curious people and hungry animals.

The task, which involves planting posts, then wrestling a half-mile of stubborn wood-and-wire fencing into place, takes the better part of a day for a group of 20. Some years — 1992 included — a spring storm flattens the fence.

But it's worth the trouble. This year, six plover nests were counted on Griswold Point, the most since monitoring of the tiny birds began.

This is stewardship, one of The Nature Conservancy's most important and challenging activities. It's the difference between just setting aside land and really protecting its diversity of life — the rare species of plants and animals and exemplary natural communities that inhabit it.

Land stewardship denotes a responsibility: taking care of a place as members of what naturalist Aldo Leopold aptly referred to as "the land community." But stewardship today is a lot more than simply caretaking. Although clearing trails, posting boundaries and settling infringement disputes is an important part of stewardship, they are but a few aspects of a complex responsibility.

Over the years, the Conservancy has placed increasing emphasis on the protection of individual species. Referred to as "element-based" con-

servation, this approach directs the Conservancy's protection efforts.

For stewardship to address the needs of these species of concern, we must first ask the right questions. In order to protect the piping plover, we need to know what makes it tick; what does it need to survive, and what are the threats to its survival?

In the case of certain species of plants, for example, periodic fire may be essential. In pine barren communities, plants such as the pitch pine rely on fire to destroy competing vegetation in the undergrowth, as well as to initiate the release of seeds from its cones, which are sensitive to heat. Fire also returns essential nutrients to the soil. Similarly, periodic inundation with water may be necessary to the survival of specialized plants in a floodplain forest.

Other plants are partial to a specific stage of succession, or the natural progress of vegetation over time in an area that is left undisturbed. The eastern red cedar invades abandoned agricultural land and open spaces because it requires, among other things, an open area with full sun that is free of the competition of other woody plants. Research is essential to effective stewardship; we need to know special requirements such as those described above,



and of less well understood plants such as the spreading globeflower (*Trollius laxus*) and the sandplain gerardia (*Agalinus acuta*).

Knowledge of the threats to species of concern is equally important. Invasive plants, such as the aggressive common reed phragmites and Asiatic bittersweet can quickly overcome other (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

LAST GREAT PLACES: A NEW APPROACH TO CONSERVATION

Nature is like a house of cards; sometimes removing a single piece can be devastating. That's why The Nature Conservancy is working to broaden its conservation work beyond single species and habitats, to encompass entire ecological systems, including the people who live and work within them. With this approach, we hope not just to save a few key cards, but the whole house.

"Last Great Places: An Alliance for People and the Environment" is The Nature Conservancy's first attempt to do this. Announced in May 1991, this long-term international program is off to a successful start.

The Conservancy has targeted 12 locations for inclusion in the Last Great Places program in the United States, Latin America and the Pacific, unique ecosystems dubbed "bioreerves" by Conservancy scientists. They are as close as Rhode Island's Block Island and Long Island's Peconic Bay, and as remote as Southern California's Nipomo Dunes and Paraguay's Mbaracayu Preserve.

In explaining the bioreserve concept, Nature Conservancy President John C. Sawhill said, "We cannot simply set large parcels of nature aside, like so many closely guarded masterpieces in an art museum, and tell people not to touch. People are already in the last of our great remaining ecosystems. They've burst through the museum door and raced down the corridors into the main galleries of the natural world. Now, working together, we must all find new ways to live there, ways that allow both people and nature to flourish."

The challenge is clear: we must foster an alliance that will both preserve nature in these places and allow people to sustain themselves economically.

The structure of these large scale preserves follows a few general guidelines. A core natural area containing important, fragile habitat is strictly protected, with as little human activity as possible. These core areas are surrounded by buffer zones, where appropriate human activity is encouraged.

What happens in the rest of the bioreserve beyond the buffer zone is important, too, however, and this is another key component of this program. As never before, the Conservancy must inform people of the important natural areas they live near, and what they must do, and must avoid doing, if they want to help preserve them.

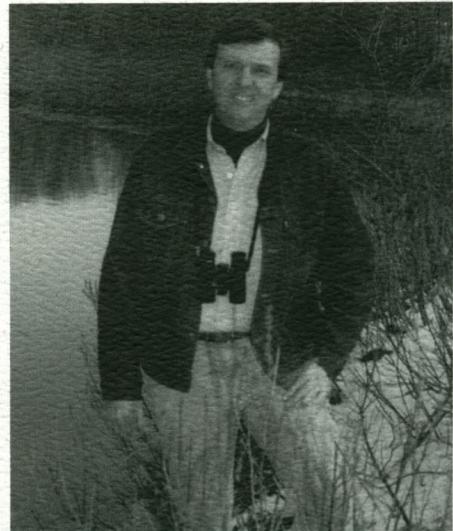
The need for the bioreserve approach is based on the simple fact that we can't do everything; we can't protect every piece of vital habitat. Even if we could, simply protecting the land where a threatened plant or animal lives is not always enough to save it. We have to consider what happens on adjacent land, or upwind, or upriver. Activities taking place miles away can have a catastrophic impact on a fragile species or habitat.

Within each bioreserve, The Nature Conservancy does more than protect land; we work with local people to create a truly comprehensive conservation program. People can help protect the rare species they live side-by-side with through the way they conduct their daily activities.

We ask them to encourage others to do so, too, creating a conservation ethic throughout the community, and beyond. Ideally, the bioreerves will serve as models for how people and nature can coexist, to their mutual benefit.

Protecting an entire landscape, human activity and all, rather than isolated pockets of undisturbed nature, broadens the scope of the Conservancy's habitat protection work. It also presents a challenge to conventional conservation philosophy, which has traditionally viewed the interests of humans and nature as mutually exclusive. The welfare of people and of wildlife are one and the same, if people are willing to accept the role of caretaker and guardian, rather than exploiter, of their environment.

How can The Nature Conservancy convince the residents of an entire region of this? By using a well-documented scientific basis for our program and applying the same practices that have served us well for more than four decades: cooperation, conservation action, partnerships, and stewardship.



Our non-confrontational approach translates well from small scale to large because its underlying logic remains the same. We're able to persuade land owners to work with us, because our goals hold rewards for them, as well.

Conservation is a good investment. It's good for you as well as for generations to come. It's good for your health — both mental and physical. It's ultimately good for the local economy, because an area with a clean, healthy environment has higher land value and attracts investment and a skilled work force.

These are the reasons we're able to develop partnerships with individuals and other organizations, a key aspect of the bioreserve program.

By building strong ties with individuals and other organizations, the Conservancy will not only achieve its most urgent goals, but will guarantee their permanent success. It's a worthwhile process, as well as a valuable end in itself.

The Nature Conservancy's "Last Great Places" initiative represents the future of conservation. Historically, when humans and nature are in opposition, nature loses every time. Only by allying people with their environment will the environment have a chance.

— LES COREY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Challenges of Stewardship

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

plant species, including threatened species.

Between its more than 50 field offices and heritage teams in numerous states, the Conservancy has a nationwide network of scientists from which to draw for information and guidance.

This information is disseminated in a variety of ways:

- The Conservancy produces Element Steward Abstracts, detailed documents that address the management needs of a variety of plant and animal species.
- In Connecticut, the Stewardship program is fortunate to have a number of fine educational institutions with which to work.
- Through the Small Grant and Conservation Biology Research Grant programs, the Connecticut Chapter is working to create a partnership with academic institutions by providing money for research applicable to stewardship needs. As with any effort to understand natural systems, the list of research needs is always growing.

Connecticut's Stewardship team comprises a variety of backgrounds and skills. Based in the Middletown office are a preserve steward,

preserve design ecologist, biological monitoring specialist, and a staff member who coordinates volunteers and provides computer support. The team also includes two research ornithologists at the Chapter's Devil's Den preserve in Weston, and a biologist at the Sunny Valley Preserve.

There is an abundance of stewardship challenges — the woolly adelgid, an exotic species that threatens stands of hemlock, and phragmites, a ubiquitous reed — to keep the Stewardship team busy, in addition to an ongoing need for ecological information on rare and endangered species.

Exciting possibilities for the future include the expansion of the natural history walks program (for more information, see page 9) as a way to introduce Conservancy preserves — and their specific stewardship challenges — to members. There are many other stewardship issues facing the Connecticut Chapter, including the Sunny Valley Preserve.

It is a field in which the more we learn and the more we accomplish, the more possibilities and challenges we discover. The responsibility is great, but it is a field to which The Nature Conservancy is completely committed. 

— JUDY PRESTON



John Matthiessen

The Nature Conservancy At Work

	Worldwide	Connecticut
Total Transactions:	13,524	611
Total Acres Protected:	5,907,000	19,113
Total Acres Registered:	453,000	5,082
Total Acres Saved	6,360,000	24,195
Members	645,240	15,477
Corporate Associates	845	14

Wish List

There are many ways to contribute to the protection of Connecticut's natural areas. The Connecticut Field Office needs the following items:

- Binoculars
- Spotting scope
- Walkie-talkies
- Gas powered weed whacker, with capability to use different attachments.
- Stand-up coat rack.

To borrow twice a year:

- All-terrain vehicle.

Left: Volunteers Jeff Carlson of Vernon, David Squires of Clinton, Jack Cade of Old Saybrook, and Mary Augustini of East Haddam (left to right) install a support for a corner post of the fence on Griswold Point in Old Lyme, which protects the nesting area of piping plovers and least terns.

On the cover: American ginseng (Panax quinquefolius).

The Natural Diversity Data Base: An Ongoing Biological Inventory

Please Join Us!

Yes, I'd like to become The Nature Conservancy's newest member in Connecticut.

\$100 (Acorn)* \$50 \$25 \$15

I'm already a member, but would like to join the ranks of Connecticut Acorns.*

Double your gift — send in your corporate matching gift form!

* Acorns are Conservancy members who contribute at least \$100 annually to Chapter operations. Connecticut Acorns are exempt from national membership dues notices, are invited on Acorn trips, and receive early notices for special events.

Please include your name and address, and make checks payable to The Nature Conservancy. Please mail to 55 High Street, Middletown, Conn. 06457-3788. Thank you.

NL8/92



When you leave home to visit an unfamiliar area, it's handy to have a road map. The Nature Conservancy Connecticut

Chapter needs a map, too, to pursue its mission of protecting the diversity of plants and animals in the state. It can't protect every piece of undeveloped land in the state; where to begin?

Because the threats to rare species in Connecticut are many and the Chapter's resources are limited, the Chapter has to focus its efforts where they do the most good. Helping point the way is the state Department of Environmental Protection's Natural Diversity Data Base, located in Hartford.

The data base is Connecticut's computerized center of information on its natural resources, specifically the locations of state and federal rare, threatened and special concern species and important habitats and communities.

The data base, which was established in 1983 as a cooperative project between the state Department of Environmental Protection's Natural Resources Center, the Connecticut Chapter and the National Audubon Society, provides information that helps the Conservancy target the most important habitats in the state, so we can work to protect them.

Data base staff record exact plant, animal and community locations on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps, and corresponding data are entered into a computer system, making information on specific sites easily available for environmental planning purposes.

Information in the data base ranges from rare species locations from the early 1900s to the ongoing inventory work field biologists are conducting in the state today.

The staff of the Natural Diversity Data Base and Geological and Natural History Survey collect much of the species and community information themselves. Staff biologists are Nancy Murray, coordinator; Dawn McKay, zoologist; Les Mehrhoff, botanist; and Ken Metzler, ecologist.

Many other biologists, scientists, naturalists and organizations also help provide new information to the data base. Among them is the Connecticut Chapter, which has contributed data from its inventory efforts over the past three years.

Information from the data base is used not only for environmental review of land or water development proposals, but also to assist both public and private conservation organizations. The Conservancy relies both on information from the data base and the knowledge of its staff in setting its conservation priorities.

Today, the role of the Natural Diversity Data Base is more important than ever. New state legislation on endangered species makes information from the data base critical in assessing which species should be listed as endangered, threatened or of special concern in Connecticut. As society continues to struggle to balance the needs of nature with those of humans, this reliable source of information on the natural world is invaluable.

— JULIANA BARRETT



Far Left: Natural Diversity Data Base Coordinator Nancy Murray.

Left: Heritage Ecologist Ken Metzler of the Natural Diversity Database (right) in the field with Preserve Design Ecologist Juliana Barrett.



Protecting Plants and Animals, and Interactions Between Them

People live in areas best suited to their needs and abilities. That's what makes an area a community: it's inhabited by people with certain abilities, who interact in a specific way. Over time, these interactions become established in institutions and customs.

Natural plant communities are similar: they are defined by plant populations and their relationship with habitat. Plants, much more than people, are adapted to particular physical environments. Within these environments, plant species interact, such as through competition. Through interactions with the environment and other plant species, a plant community becomes defined.

There are many kinds of plant communities in Connecticut, ranging from floodplain forests to fens to grasslands. The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter and the state Department of Environmental Protection's Natural Resources Center have undertaken a cooperative venture to classify all of them. The classification work relies on both published information and field data collected by ecologists throughout the state.

This unprecedented effort to describe all of these communities will help the Connecticut Chapter to protect and manage biological diversity at a level encompassing more than single plant or animal populations. By identifying these communities and understanding how they work, The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter can protect the rarest types, and help them to thrive on Chapter preserves.

"The community classification is a tool for protecting all of Connecticut's natural diversity," said Les Mehrhoff of the DEP. "By protecting communities, we are not just protecting the rare and endangered species. We can protect other species in the community, and probably more importantly, we can protect interactions between species."

Before scientists begin collecting data in an area, they identify environmental gradients, which are due to single or multiple physical factors such as elevation, soil moisture or salinity. They then draw transects — imaginary lines running perpendicular to the gradient — to set up a series of plots, called relevés.

Information can then be collected within each relevé. For a biologically uniform, forested area of 20 meters square, for example, such information may include all the plant species found within the plot in the tree, shrub and herbaceous layers, the percent of the plot each species covers, as well as detailed information on the soils and topography of the plot.

The data may then be analyzed to determine how groups of plant species sort out along the gradient. Some species may be found the length of an environmental gradient, while others may be found only in one area. Species that occur only in certain places are considered characteristic species of the community. These may, but do not necessarily, dominate the community.

A lake shore with vegetation growing at different water depths is an example of plant communities growing along a gradient. At the bottom of the gradient, in deep quiet water, is a community of floating and submerged aquatic plants, often including bullhead lily (*Nuphar variegatum*). Landward, in shallow water, tall emergent vegetation may occur; cattails (*Typha spp.*) and other herbaceous species may form a community here. Further landward, shrubby vegetation grows on wet soils. Species such as sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) and alders (*Alnus spp.*) may occur in a community here.

Concurrent with the development of Connecticut's classification is the creation of a regional community classification for the northeast.

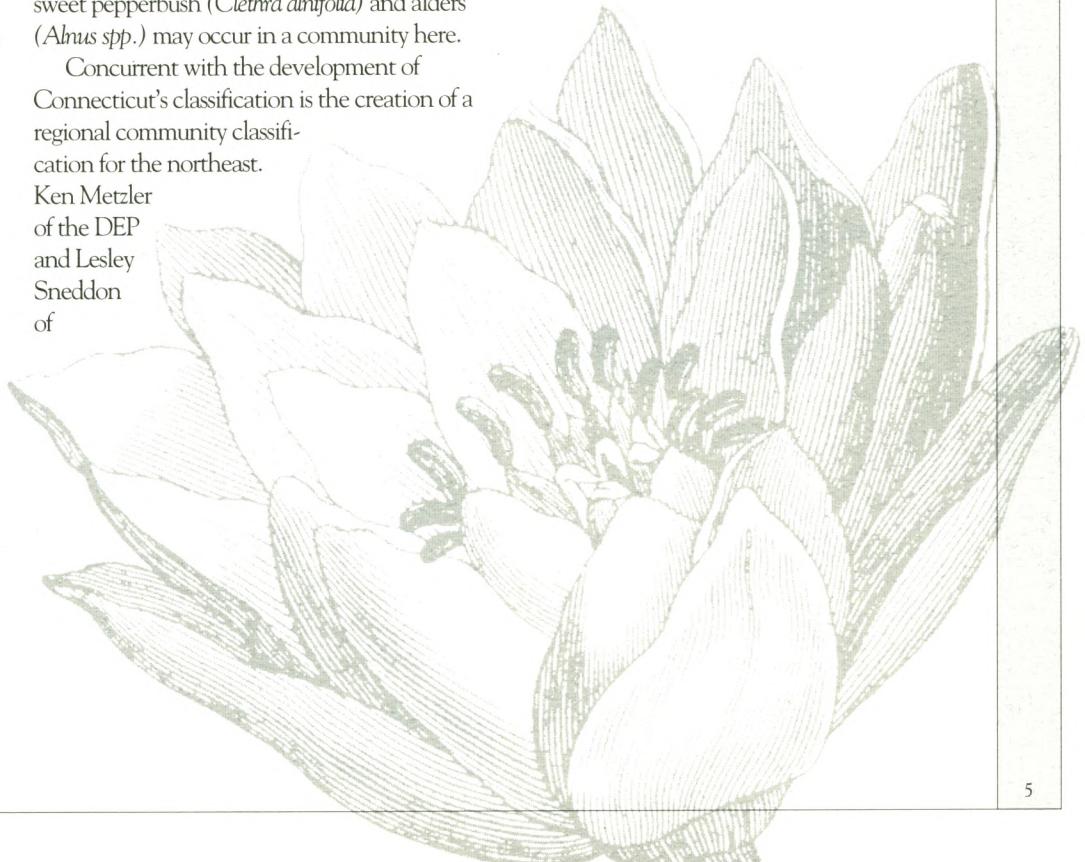
Ken Metzler
of the DEP
and Lesley
Sneddon
of

The Nature Conservancy's Eastern Regional Office in Boston are working to develop the eastern regional portion of a national community classification. This system will allow the comparison of similar plant communities identified by individual state programs, producing a regional perspective on critical communities.

Providing a classification of plant communities to Connecticut biologists will accomplish several important goals:

- The information can be used to further scientific research at both a species and a community level.
- The classification will highlight gaps in areas needing further study.
- While the locations of many high quality communities are already mapped at the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base (see page 4), biologists will be able to supply new information to the Data Base with reference to particular communities.
- Ultimately, The Nature Conservancy will use the community information to continue to protect the best examples of natural communities.

— JULIANA BARRETT



Typical Plant Communities Found in Connecticut



Top to bottom:
Floodplain Forest, Freshwater tidal
marsh, and Silver maple
/sensitive fern forest communities.

The following are three descriptions of typical natural communities found in Connecticut. These are simplified descriptions of complex and dynamic communities; for example, sometimes the species composition of a community will change within a single season.

The Silver Maple/Sensitive Fern Forest Community

Community is one of several floodplain forests found on the low terraces of river floodplains in Connecticut. The community occurs in the part of the floodplain that is above the river level after spring flood waters recede, although it may occasionally flood during the summer. Silver maple is the dominant tree species, with cottonwood occurring sporadically in the tree and shrub layers, and slippery elm and green ash are commonly found as low trees. Typically, sensitive fern completely covers the forest floor. However, the floristic composition may change with elevation. For example, wood reedgrass, white avens, and turtlehead occur in the herbaceous layer at higher elevations.

A variant of this community occurs on the highest ridges of the inner floodplain where ostrich fern may cover large areas. Examples of this community may be found along the Connecticut River floodplain.

Silver maple	- <i>Acer saccharinum</i>
Cottonwood	- <i>Populus deltoides</i>
Slippery elm	- <i>Ulmus rubra</i>
Green ash	- <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
Sensitive fern	- <i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>
Wood reedgrass	- <i>Cinna arundinacea</i>
White avens	- <i>Geum canadense</i>
Turtlehead	- <i>Chelone glabra</i>
Ostrich fern	- <i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>

Highbush Blueberry/Swamp Azalea Shrub

Community is a wetland thicket occurring in basins and other topographic depressions.

While scattered red maples may occur, the thicket is dominated by highbush blueberry and swamp azalea, two species that often grow so densely that they form an impenetrable barrier throughout the swamp. Other shrub species occur occasionally and may include buttonbush and winterberry with few herbaceous species present. Moss cover is variable and may range from very low to 100 percent, usually of differ-

ent species of Sphagnum, a genus of moss that often grows in wet, acidic areas.

The low species diversity of this community type is partly due to the high water level of the swamp. The thickets develop on organic soils saturated with acidic water of strongly fluctuating levels; water level is generally very high in the spring and gradually declines throughout the summer months.

Examples of this community may be found throughout Connecticut.

Red maple	- <i>Acer rubrum</i>
Highbush blueberry	- <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
Swamp azalea	- <i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>
Buttonbush	- <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>
Winterberry	- <i>Kalmia latifolia</i>

Sedge/Twig-rush Fen Community is a type of fen, which is a wetland often containing accumulated peat and fed by groundwater that has been in contact with soil or bedrock, making it richer in mineral-nutrient elements than rainwater. This particular type of fen is fed by groundwater that flows over limestone deposits.

Trees may be scattered throughout a fen, while shrubs and herbaceous species are dominant. This limestone fen is characterized by sedges growing on a peaty substrate. In addition to the characteristic sedges, herbaceous species may include cattails, twig-rush, pitcher plants, buckbean and bladderwort species. The predominate moss species in this community is *Campylium stellatum*.

This community is found only in locations with special conditions, particularly the influence of limestone bedrock and regular inundation, making the soils very wet. For this reason, this community type is found only in the northwest corner of Connecticut. A number of species that are rare in the state can be found in this community, including a sedge (*Carex aquatilis var altior*).

Characteristic sedges	- <i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>
	- <i>Carex aquatilis var altior</i>
Twig rush	- <i>Cladium mariscoides</i>
	(also a characteristic sedge)
Cattails	- <i>Typha angustifolia</i>
	- <i>Typha latifolia</i>
Pitcher plant	- <i>Sarracenia purpurea</i>
Buckbean	- <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>
Bladderwort species	- <i>Utricularia</i> spp.

— JULIANA BARRETT



Small People Make Big Difference by Adopting Acres

Dear Nature Conservancy:
I want to be a park ranger when I grow up. Could you send me information about saving plants and animals?"

"Dear Nature Conservancy: I'm a high school student and am concerned about how bad our environment is becoming. What can people my age do to help?"

Every day, the Connecticut Chapter receives letters like these from children whose concerns are global, their means clearly limited. The Nature Conservancy's Adopt-an-Acre program is proving to be the perfect vehicle for empowering young people — and saving tropical forest — by dividing the problem of land and species preservation into units small enough to be manageable.

For \$35, individuals or groups can "adopt" an acre of rainforest in Latin America or the Caribbean. This is the amount The Nature Conservancy estimates it spends, on average, for supporting the acquisition and management of tropical parks and nature reserves. The Conservancy is currently using Adopt-an-Acre funds to finance protection of the Mbaracayu Nature Reserve in Paraguay, a 143,000-acre forest which is home to jaguar and toucans, among thousands of other species. Mbaracayu is also home to the indigenous Ache tribe.

Students in Connecticut have hosted a variety of events to support the Adopt-an-Acre program. The Environmental Club at Joel Barlow High School in Redding recently held a

benefit concert, the proceeds from which bought 36 acres at Mbaracayu. Students at Norris Elementary School in East Hartford held a "read-athon," in which parents and teachers sponsored students to read a total of 2,952 books about endangered plants and animals. Supplemented by proceeds from rainforest T-shirt sales, this generated enough money to protect nine acres at Mbaracayu.

In Madison, the Country School's eighth graders have decided to make the adoption of nine Mbaracayu acres their "lasting" graduation present to their school, says teacher Ann Krugman. And at South Windsor High School, internationally-minded students held a fundraiser for Save the Children that was so successful they have decided to donate the "surplus" to adopt Mbaracayu acres. Appropriately enough, the students presented the check to The Nature Conservancy during the school's Model United Nations session.

Collectively, young people are making extraordinary things possible: of the money raised to date towards the Mbaracayu project, more than one-third has come from people under 18. When the Mbaracayu project is completed, The Nature Conservancy will apply Adopt-an-Acre funds to a new tropical project site.

To find out how individuals, schools, and other groups can adopt acres, call The Nature Conservancy's toll-free Adopt-an-Acre hotline: 1-800-628-6860, or the Connecticut Chapter office at 344-0716. 

— CLAUDIA POLSKY



Join the Connecticut Chapter Mail Team!

Many people would like to help The Nature Conservancy, but may not want to do physical work on our preserves.

If that sounds like you, there's still an important way you can help the Connecticut Chapter.

The Chapter needs your help with our spring and fall membership mailings and special event mailings. Twice a year, we look to our loyal membership to help us with funding of our operations and special land protection projects. Several times a year, we send out special mailings for a variety of events.

These are important parts of our membership program, allowing us to communicate and ask for help from our members, and to invite them to Chapter activities. Without our appeal mailings, which fund almost ten percent of what we do, we could not continue.

But we need your help!

This is a labor-intensive process, requiring folding, stuffing, sealing, stamping and labelling thousands of envelopes. It requires patience, good humor, and a desire to help The Nature Conservancy do its job. All work takes place during office hours in our Middletown office; we'll notify you well in advance when we're planning a mailing. Whether you are available to work for two hours or for eight, your assistance is welcome, and will be deeply appreciated.

Volunteers are rewarded with coffee and doughnuts, the gratitude of the Chapter staff, and the knowledge that they have made an important contribution to conservation in Connecticut. It's also a great opportunity to meet other members of The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter.

If you are interested in helping us, please call Dorothy Millen at (203) 344-0716. Thank you!

Left: David Sutherland, director of government relations at the Connecticut Chapter, accepts a giant replica of a check for \$350 from the fifth graders of Hebron Elementary School. The students raised the money with a cupcake sale and a play about a rain forest. It will be used to protect ten acres of tropical parkland through The Nature Conservancy's Adopt-an-Acre program.

Bridgeport Hydraulic Dedicates 40-Mile Trail System

Memorial Gifts

Since our Spring 1990 newsletter, many generous memorial contributions have been received on behalf of the following people. The Trustees and staff of the Connecticut Chapter wish to thank the families and loved ones of these individuals for including the Conservancy at this time in their lives. A memorial gift that furthers land preservation is one that can be cherished and remembered for many generations.

Irma Adler	Margaret W. Lauterstein
Svea Almquist	Olive Ledyard
Blanch Appelbaum	Herman Lehmann
Charles R. Basau	John Loeb
A. William Bertuch	Coner Mattson
Reeve Kelsy Biggers	Arlene McComber
Larry Biller	Annie Ryder Michter
Winifred Bliss	William A. Mulligan
Mathew Bochain	Phil Newcomb
Charlotte Boedecker	Jack Nichols
Charles Richard Carpenter	Thea Olmquist
Martha Mansfield Carter	Gary Olssaver
Kimberly Cheney	Helvie Osso
Marion Crossman	Linwood Page
Claire Cusani	Barry Pender
Victoria Dacy	Jacob Pincus
Robert Darling	Joseph Polseno
Maxwell Fader	Ernest Prescott
Ruth Farkas	Mae Reyer
Trevor Fazio	Mrs. Charles L. Scarlett
Edward Field	Dorothy Schaffner
Bernard Franklin	Helen Senft
Kenneth Galbraith	Viola Thomas
Audrey Gill	Humphrey Udal
Mabel Jennings Glynn	Eric Ullman
Ruth Hayden	P. Stuart Vaughn
Ruth Hunter	Virginia Wilbur
George Jewett	William Marshall
Benjamin Kozlowski	Youmans
Peg Kurz	Jean Zeamer

The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter would like to thank the following businesses for their contributions to the *Wildlife In Art* Show:

Of Old Lyme:	Bess Eaton Donuts
The Bowerbird	Wild Irish Rose
Old Lyme Frame shop	The Paint Shop
Old Lyme Pharmacy	Of Old Saybrook:
Anne's Kitchen	The Paint Shop
Colonial Wine Cellars	

Right: Acoms Christine McGregor and Dr. Donald McGregor of Clinton at the *Wildlife In Art* Show.

If you'd like to become a Connecticut Chapter Acorn, please fill out and return the coupon on page four.

Corey Appointed to Governor's Greenway Commission

The Nature Conservancy is not the only organization treating greenways with increasing importance. In May, Connecticut Governor Lowell P. Weicker Jr. appointed Connecticut Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey Jr., to the 19-member state Greenways Committee, which has been charged with developing recommendations to the Governor for forming a permanent greenways program and encouraging recreational use of these resources. The committee is co-chaired by attorney Russell Brenneman and East Haddam First Selectwoman Susan Merrow.

A greenway is a corridor of undeveloped land, often located along a prominent natural feature such as a river or ridgetop. Some are set aside for hiking or other activities, while others serve primarily as wildlife corridors.

— DAVID SUTHERLAND

A Wild Success!

Art and nature make a powerful mix. The second annual *Wildlife In Art* show benefitting The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter was a great success for both, providing a showplace for top quality wildlife art and raising important funds to protect the environment.

The show, which took place June 6 and 7,

exceeded all expectations, attracting more than 900 visitors over the two days. Artwork sold included original paintings and drawings, prints, bronze sculptures and woodcarvings. The Connecticut Chapter received commissions for the sales, to be used for its Connecticut River projects.

The Connecticut Chapter would like to thank Robert Braunfield, organizer of the event, for a job well done, as well as the 18 nationally acclaimed artists who exhibited their work.



Alex Matthiessen



Onion Mountain Preserve Dedicated to Joe Pratt

The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter Board of Trustees dedicated the Onion Mountain Preserve in Canton to Joe D. Pratt of Armington, Illinois at its summer meeting on June 22. The preserve was also renamed the Joe D. Pratt Onion Mountain Preserve.

A former Connecticut resident, Pratt performed much of the early comprehensive biological inventory work on the flora and fauna of

Onion Mountain, and introduced many other students and scientists to the area. Pratt also encouraged the Connecticut Chapter to create the Onion Mountain Preserve.

Pratt was an enthusiastic teacher on environmental issues, working as a naturalist at Westmoor Park in West Hartford. He was also an early and active member of the Connecticut Botanical Society and the Connecticut Entomological Society.

M E M B E R ' S N I C H E

Four years ago Angelo Frank went to Southbury to view the wintering bald eagles who came to Shepaug Dam on the Housatonic River. That day, after seeing several eagles, Angelo asked, "How can I help?" Since then, Angelo has worked extensively on what he believes in — assisting our environment.

For three consecutive years Angelo has been a volunteer at the eagle observation station, which is cooperatively managed by Northeast Utilities, the state Department of Environmental Protection and The Nature Conservancy.

At the dam, Angelo works to sustain control over a large volume of visitors and assists with questions about eagles — questions he is adept at answering. "I know what people are going to ask," he says. "Two ladies asked if all eagles look alike." Angelo explained to them the difference between a bald eagle and a golden eagle.

Lively, gregarious and stocky in stature, Angelo is a pure pleasure to know. Angelo enjoys his volunteer work of all kinds.

Angelo assists the Connecticut Chapter and the state Department of Environmental Protection putting up fences to protect the nesting piping plovers at Griswold Point and West Haven. He also digs trees in Barkhamsted to take to Enfield to be planted as a buffer between new houses and eagle roosting areas.

When Angelo is not working as a volunteer he spends a great deal of time traveling and photographing countless themes. Most inspirational to him are barns, birds and covered bridges. "I always take a dirt road," he said. "There's so much to see. We need to



Dorothy Millen

preserve land so 500 years from now they see what we are seeing." Angelo is an environmentalist in both his thoughts and actions.

An avid fisherman, Angelo holds licenses for Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, and Connecticut. He is retired from a position as an assembler of .22 caliber pistols at High Standard in Hamden, a sporting goods and firearms company where he worked for 34 years. Angelo served as a marine in the Pacific during World War II. He has lived in New Haven all his life, and is proud of his Greek heritage.

We, too, are proud — proud to have Angelo Frank take a strong stand and help guard and care for our wildlife and lands. In the last three years, Angelo has become a respected friend of the Connecticut Chapter. Angelo was honored with our Chapter's White Oak Award in 1991. Thanks, Angelo, for your friendship and for many jobs well done.

— DOROTHY MILLEN

Sunday, August 16, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Family Nature Walk
Devil's Den Preserve, Weston

Saturday, November 7
Land Trust Service Bureau Convocation.
Detailed brochure available after August 1st.
For more information, please call Lesley Olsen at 344-9867.

Saturday, October 3
Connecticut Chapter Annual Meeting
East Haddam.
See page 10.

For more information on activities at the Devil's Den preserve, please call 226-4991.

Natural History Walks

Two excursions led by Connecticut Chapter stewardship staff on Conservancy preserves are still to come this summer. The pace will be leisurely, with an emphasis on exploration and appreciation of these natural areas. Please wear appropriate clothing for the weather, including rain gear or sun hats as necessary; the walks will take place rain or shine. Please remember to bring water, and if you like, binoculars, handlens, and field guides.

All walks take place from 10 a.m. to noon at the places and dates listed below. Walks are limited to 20 people, so please call Judy Preston today at 344-0716 for reservations and directions.

Salmon Cove, East Haddam, August 29
Bring a canoe to explore this extensive freshwater tidal marsh and creek system, which is fed by the Salmon and Moodus Rivers, and in turn flows into the Connecticut River. The cove is home to rare aquatic plants, and adjacent to Moodus' famous Mount Tom. We'll discuss the river processes that determine the fascinating vegetation of this tidal marsh.
Note: Personal flotation devices required for each participant.

Cathedral Pines, Cornwall, September 19
This 42-acre preserve, once the largest single stand of old-growth white pines and hemlocks in New England, was decimated by a tornado in 1989. It is every bit as valuable today as a testimony to the power of wind, as well as an ongoing display of forest succession. Come walk among the scattered remains and help us piece together the past and future of this remarkable natural area.

The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter's 32nd Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 3, 1992, East Haddam, Connecticut

Program

8:45 A.M.

REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS

9:30 A.M.

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL
BUSINESS MEETING
ROBERT M. SCHNEIDER,
CHAIRMAN

THE YEAR IN REVIEW
LESLIE N. COREY JR.
DIRECTOR

10:30 A.M. AWARDS CEREMONY

10:45 A.M. GUEST SPEAKER:
SUSAN MERROW

11:30 A.M. BOARD CAMELOT STAR

NOON

CAMELOT STAR DEPARTS

2:30 P.M.

DISEMBARK FROM CAMELOT STAR

Atwo-hour cruise with lunch on the Connecticut River, a guest speaker, and a beautiful location—East Haddam's historic Goodspeed Opera House—will all be part of this year's Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter Annual Meeting.

Environmentalist, Author,
Selectwoman Merrow to Address
Meeting

This year's guest speaker will be East Haddam First Selectwoman Susan Merrow, former president of the Sierra Club, author, and a leading environmentalist, who will speak on the topic "Greenways: Connections Between the Places We Live and the Places We Love."

A former schoolteacher, Merrow was president of the 600,000-member Sierra Club for 13 months beginning in early 1991. "One for the Earth," a chronicle of this experience co-authored by Merrow and long time friend Wanda Rickerby, was published in May. Merrow has also worked as a lobbyist for Common Cause, a national organization that works for open and accessible government.

Connecticut River Cruise

After the Annual Meeting and awards, join the Connecticut Chapter staff and trustees for a two-hour cruise down the Connecticut River with Camelot Cruises, Inc. of Haddam. We'll ride down the river and have lunch aboard one of their contemporary cruise ships. Guided by state Department of Environmental Protection Fisheries Biologist Stephen R. Gephard and Connecticut Chapter Director of Land Protection Carolie Evans, we'll be able to view wildlife and land the Connecticut Chapter has preserved.

Space is limited, so please register early for this exciting cruise down New England's largest river. The ship will depart from and return to the Goodspeed dock.

Left:

The Goodspeed Opera House, site
of this year's annual meeting.

Nominations to the Chapter Board of Trustees:

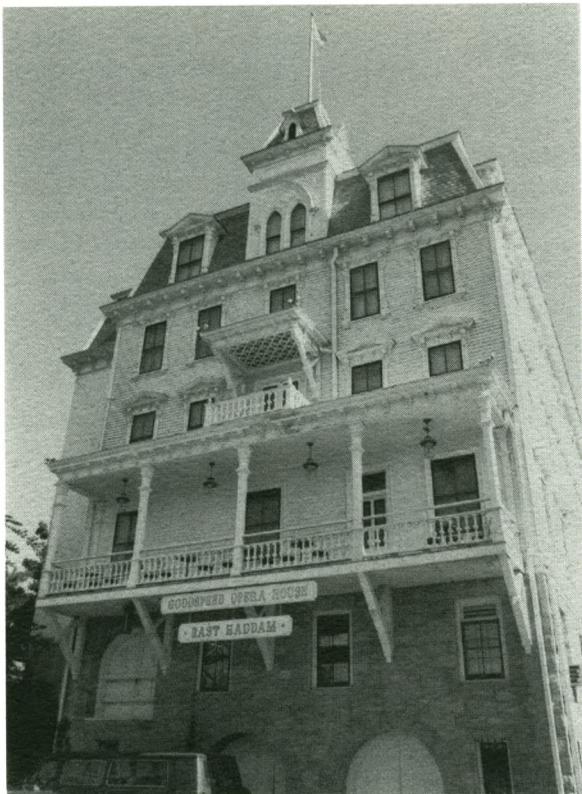
The Board of Trustee's Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officers and trustees for election to the Board by the general membership:

CARROLL W. BREWSTER, RIDGEFIELD — Executive Director of the Hole in the Wall Gang Fund, Inc., Newman's Own's fund for the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Ashford, a summer camp for children with cancer and other serious blood-related diseases. Brewster is a graduate of Yale College and Law School, and served as president of Hobart and William Smith Colleges from 1982 to 1991. He is active in a variety of charitable organizations. (*three-year term*)

DR. CARMEN R. CID-BENEVENTO, WILLIMANTIC — Associate Professor of Biology at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic. Dr. Cid-Benevento, who holds a Ph.D. in botany from Michigan State University, is committed to environmental education and outreach. She chairs the Ecological Society of America's Committee for Women and Minorities, and is a member of the Committee on Ethnic Diversity of the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club. (*one-year term*)

KEVIN J. COADY, BRANFORD — Managing partner of Port Milford Marina in Milford, and treasurer of R.J. Julia Booksellers, Ltd. of Madison. Coady has worked in many aspects of commercial real estate development as an investor, including the Metro Center development in downtown Hartford. He serves as president of the Linden Shores Erosion Control District in Branford, and is active in the Branford Land Trust. (*one-year term*)

STEWART H. GREENFIELD, WESTPORT — Cofounder of Oak Investment of Westport in 1978. Greenfield had been vice president and general partner of the Sprout Capital Group at Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, directing Sprout's technology investment strategies. An avid birder and photographer, Greenfield is interested in both local and international conservation. He has served as an interim member of the board since December 1991. (*three-year term*)





DR. KENT E. HOLINGER, HARTFORD — Assistant professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Holsinger, who holds a Ph.D. in biological sciences from Stanford University, has worked as a lecturer and researcher at Stanford, the Universities of California at Berkeley and Davis, as well as UConn. He is a leading expert in the field of plant ecology. (*three-year term*)

DR. PETER C. PATTON, MIDDLETOWN — Professor and former chairman of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences of Wesleyan University. Dr. Patton, who holds a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Texas at Austin, recently published a book he co-authored, "A Moveable Shore, The Fate of the Connecticut Coast." He has served as a consultant to The Nature Conservancy and other environmental organizations as an expert in coastal geology. (*three-year term*)

MARY ANN DICKINSON, MIDDLETOWN (*re-election*) (*three-year term*)

ROBERT M. SCHNEIDER, LYME (*re-election*) (*three-year term*)

JOHN A.T. WILSON, NORTH CANTON (*re-election*) (*three-year term*)

Nominated as officers (*one-year terms*) for election by the Board of Trustees:

ANTHONY P. GRASSI, WILTON, CHAIRMAN

Grassi has served on the Chapter Board of Trustees for one year. He chairs the Sunny Valley Preserve Advisory Committee and Farm Subcommittee, and serves on the Finance & Administration and Acquisition Committees.

Grassi, a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Business School, worked at First Boston Corporation, New York, N.Y. from 1976 to 1991, where he served as managing director for corporate finance and chair of the Investment Banking Committee, as well as other positions. Grassi is a member of numerous environmental organizations, including The Nature Conservancy since 1980, is a trustee of the Wilton Land Conservation Trust and a board member of American Rivers.

AUSTIN DUNHAM BARNEY II, WEST SIMSBURY, (*Development*)

DANIEL P. BROWN JR., WEST GRANBY, (*Land Acquisition*)

EVAN S. GRISWOLD, OLD LYME, (*Science & Stewardship*)

A. EUGENE BILLINGS, NORFOLK, *TREASURER*

RANDOLPH K. BYERS, WILTON, *SECRETARY*



Lisa Shabbe

Above: Anthony P. Grassi

Directions

From I-95 north or south: Take exit for Route 9 north. From Route 9, take exit 7 toward East Haddam, then proceed as indicated below (*).

From Hartford: Take I-91 south to Route 9 exit. Follow Route 9 south to exit 7 toward East Haddam, then proceed as indicated below (*).

* Follow the exit ramp (approximately one mile), which is Route 82, to blinking light. Turn left onto Route 154. Go a quarter mile, turning right at the first light. Proceed over bridge, then go right, following signs to "Goodspeed" parking lot.

All Nature Conservancy members are invited to attend the Annual Business meeting of the Connecticut Chapter at no charge. Reservations for the remaining part of the program (lunch and river cruise) are on a first come, first served basis.

Annual Meeting Reservation Form — Please respond by Friday, September 18

Name of Each Attendee (as you would like it to appear on your nametag):

Your Address:

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Night Phone _____

Number Attending _____ @ \$25 Each (*Includes River Cruise and a Box Lunch*) \$_____
Of these, please reserve me _____ vegetarian lunches.

TOTAL ENCLOSED (*Please make checks payable to The Nature Conservancy*) \$_____

I will attend the annual meeting, not the river cruise and lunch. No money is enclosed.

Please fill out and return to: Annual Meeting, The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter, 55 High Street, Middletown, CT 06457-3788

Please dress casually, but be sure to dress appropriately for our cruise; it may be chilly. See you there!

The Nature Conservancy

Connecticut Chapter
55 High Street
Middletown, CT 06457-3788
(203) 344-0716
FAX (203) 344-1334

National Office: 1815 North Lynn Street,
Arlington, VA 22209

Connecticut Chapter Staff

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Thomas P. McGuigan, Director of Development
Judy Preston, Director of Science & Stewardship
David Sutherland, Director of Government Relations
Xandy Wilson, Director of Administration
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Kim Bennett-Lombardi, Science & Stewardship Assistant
Martha Bennett, Receptionist/Staff Assistant
David Gumbart, Preserve Steward
Carol Krupa, Bookkeeper/Computer Support
Beth P. Lapin, Biological Monitoring &
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John Matthiessen, Development Coordinator
Dorothy A. Millen, Development/
Membership Assistant
Lesley Olsen, Land Protection Assistant
Claudia Polksky, Land Protection Specialist
Polly Richter, Finance Manager

Land Trust Service Bureau

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Lise Hanners, PhD, Assistant Director
Frederick Moore, Preserve Manager
Lillian Willis, Staff Assistant/
Volunteer Coordinator

Sunny Valley Preserve

(203) 354-3444
Christopher S. Wood, Director
Wayne Woodard, Preserve Manager

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From The Land

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1992 Small Grants Awarded

Every year, the Connecticut Chapter funds scientific research on Conservancy lands and on topics applicable to the Conservancy's stewardship goals.

Small grants are available to anyone proposing a viable project. Funding is limited to \$2,500 for field travel, subsistence, equipment and supplies.

The Connecticut Chapter encourages research related to the maintenance or enhancement of species or natural communities of concern within the state, such as exotic species control; inventories of species of special concern, especially invertebrates; ground-water hydrology; stream degradation; and restoration of degraded habitats. The Chapter particularly needs data on rare species occurrence and habitat needs; natural community disturbances; and the long-term effect of beach jetties on barrier beaches.

Applications should consist of a short proposal, including objectives, relevance to The Nature Conservancy's mission of preserving biological diversity, methods, and results: how the research will help The Nature Conservancy pursue its mission. The coming year's deadline will be announced in the fall *From the Land*.

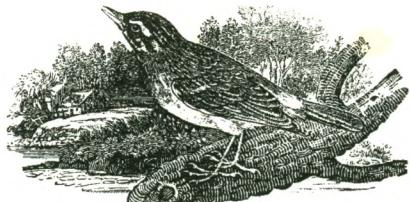
For more information, please contact Judy Preston in the Connecticut Chapter office.

This year's recipients:

George Gale, a doctoral student in ecology at the University of Connecticut at Storrs. Gale will study birds that migrate between Connecticut and the tropics, specifically the worm eating warbler, and their abundance in forest tracts of various sizes. This study will provide important information influencing future Nature Conservancy preserve designs.

Douglas G. Smith, acting curator of invertebrates of the zoology museum of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Smith will survey four areas in southwestern Connecticut for rare non-insect aquatic invertebrates.

Marjorie M. Holland, director of the Public Affairs Office of the Ecological Society of America. Holland will study changes in the vegetation of a Connecticut River marsh over a ten-year period.

**From The Land**

The Nature Conservancy
Connecticut Chapter
55 High Street
Middletown, CT 06457-3788

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